

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159202

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG

SUBJECT: UNESCO: APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW
YORK AND WASHINGTON

1. DURING COURSE OF 102ND EXECUTIVE BOARD, DG AND NAJMAN
DISCUSSED WITH TOUSSAINT THE REPLACEMENT OF VARCHAVER IN
NEW YORK AND RESTABLISHMENT OF LIASION POSITION IN WASH-
INGTON, AND INVITED US TO RECOMMEND CANDIDATES.

2. OUR PRIMARY INTEREST IN PLACING AMERICANS IN UNESCO
SECRETARIAT IS IN GETTING THEM INTO POSITIONS WITH GEN-
UINE INFLUENCE OVER POLICY FORMULATION AND EXECUTION. WE
ARE NOT INTERESTED IN GRADE PER SE, ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY
THAT ANY POSITION OF REAL INFLUENCE WOULD BE AT ASSISTANT
DG, SENIOR P OR D LEVELS.

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3. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS A GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR OF IMPOR-
TANCE AND THAT IS THAT POLICY INFLUENCE APPEARS TO BE
CONCENTRATED IN PARIS. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOST OF THE
POWER RESTS WITH THE DG, BUT SOME TRICKLES DOWN TO SENIOR
SUBORDINATES). THE FURTHER A SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL IS
REMOVED FROM PARIS, THE LESS POLICY INFLUENCE HE IS

LIKELY TO HAVE.

4. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT WAS GREATLY PLEASED THAT CHANDLER

GOT IBE JOB, IT IS A FACT THAT THE IBE IS HEADQUARTERED IN GENEVA, AND THEREFORE REMOVED FROM THE POSSIBILITY OF DAY TO DAY, INFORMAL CONTACTS THAT ENHANCE THE INFLUENCE OF A SENIOR OFFICIAL ON HQ POLICY. WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON POSITIONS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WERE AMERICANS APPOINTED TO THESE JOBS, WE WOULD THEN HAVE THREE D LEVEL AMERICANS IN POSITIONS AWAY FROM PARIS, THE REAL SOURCE OF POWER. THE INFLUENCE OF NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ON UNESCO'S POLICY WOULD BE MINIMAL. YET, THESE POSITIONS WOULD COUNT AGAINST OUR QUOTA.

5. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO PUSH AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON POSITIONS. WE PREFER TO RESERVE OUR CLAIM FOR PARIS POSITIONS OF REAL INFLUENCE.

6. REQUEST PERMDEL'S ASSESSMENT OF WHERE ACTION ON NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON POSITIONS STANDS, AND ASSESSMENT OF ADVISABILITY OF TELLING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WHAT KIND OF POSITIONS WE ARE INTERESTED IN.

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7. DURING HIS MAY 3 MEETING WITH TOUSSAINT, M'BOW INDICATED HE WAS LOOKING AT THE NEW YORK POSITION IN TERMS OF THE POSSIBILITY IT PRESENTS FOR REBUILDING THE IMAGE OF UNESCO IN AMERICA. IN REALITY, THE IMAGE OF UNESCO DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS IN PARIS, (OR NAIROBI OR OTHER PLACES WHERE CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS ARE HELD). THE MOST SKILLFUL PR PRACTICIONER IN THE WORLD COULD NOT HAVE PRESENTED THE 1974 RESOLUTIONS IN A WAY THAT WOULD HAVE AVOIDED THE CRISIS THEY PRECIPITATED. IF THE PROGRAMS OF UNESCO AND THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS MEMBER STATES ARE RIGHT, PR WILL BE NO PROBLEM IN AMERICA. VANCE

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